



Friday Night Insight Programs



These programs are open to the public free of charge from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center located at 50 Main Street, Ketchikan, AK 99901. Each week guest presenters cover an array of topics on the natural and cultural heritage of Southeast Alaska.

January 4th “The Bad and the Beautiful: Invasive Plants in Southeast Alaska”

As invasive plants run rampant over much of the United States, Alaska has been largely spared from this form of ecological catastrophe likened by many scientists to a slow-moving wildfire. But trouble looms on the horizon. Join Ketchikan Forest Service District Botanist Tom Heutte on a tour of these eco-terrorists of the plant world and their potential impacts on our local ecosystems

January 11th “Ketchikan Joins the Geocaching Craze!”

The University of Alaska Southeast has a state of the art Geographical Information Systems (GIS) lab that can be used by public and private organizations for training and workshops. Amy Russell is the GIS Coordinator for the University and she will explain how businesses can benefit from location data that are geographically referenced to demographic data.

January 18th “The Bridges of the Tongass”

You might say that Eleanor Oman enjoys ‘bridge work’ because she has spent over 17 years working on bridge design, construction and condition inspections in the Tongass National Forest. This presentation will be enjoyable for all ages and includes building a suspension bridge out of everyday objects and testing it for strength! This challenge will show what professional engineers consider when they design bridges and what they find out when inspecting them.

January 25th “Internment Camp at Ward Lake”

During World War II the Japanese invaded the Aleutian chain and the American authorities decided to relocate residents of these islands to southeast Alaska. Over 150 of these displaced people were living at the internment camp at Ward Lake. Follow their historic journey as Dave Keiffer reveals their unfortunate plight.

